

IN THE CLAIMS:

Preceding "1." change "Patent Claims" to --What is claimed is:--.

Amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1, line 7 from the bottom of this claim, change " PO_3 " to $-\text{PO}_{32}-$

Claim 2, line 2, change "characterized in that" to --wherein--.

Claim 3, line 2, change "characterized in that" to --wherein--.

Claim 4, line 2, change "characterized in that" to --wherein--.

Claim 5, line 2, change "characterized in that" to --wherein--.

Claim 6, line 2, change "characterized in that" to --wherein--.

Claim 7, line 2, change "characterized in that" to --wherein--.

Claim 8, line 2, change "characterized in that" to --wherein--.

Claim 9, line 2, change "characterized in that" to --wherein--.

Claim 10, line 2, change "characterized in that" to --wherein--.

Claim 11, line 1, change "claims 1 to 10" to --claim 1--;

line 2, change "characterized in that" to --wherein--.

Claim 12 (amended). [Method] A method for qualitative or quantitative determination of proteins, nucleic acids, oligomers, DNA, RNA, biological cells, lipids, polymers, drugs or polymer particles, [characterized in that the] comprising the step of providing functional groups of the laser-compatible NIR marker dyes which are